REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been previously canceled. Claim 17 has been newly added. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 10-17 are now pending in this application, with claim 10 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. The Abstract has been objected to for including improper language. Claims 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over EP 1189025 to Hobbs et. al. ("Hobbs").

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract has been objected to for including improper language. The Abstract has been amended to remove the improper language.

Rejection of claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action states that Hobbs teaches all of Applicants' recited elements except that a check sum is formed for the data in each of the groups and stored in the volatile memory, the check sum being usable for checking the data during reading, which allegedly would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants' invention recites a rotation rate sensor. The sensor includes a vibration gyro and a plurality of circuits used for operating the vibration gyro, and emitting a rotation rate signal. The plurality of circuits includes a non-volatile memory from which data can be read from, and to which data can be written to, or stored. The stored data includes variable data. The plurality of circuits further includes means for reading the data from the non-volatile memory

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after switching on the rotation rate sensor. The data is subdivided into groups based on use of the data. The non-volatile memory includes measures for signal protection for each of the groups, and the data in each of the groups can be read and written independent of the data in the other groups. A checksum is formed for the data in each of the groups and stored in the volatile memory, and the checksum is used for checking the data during reading.

Independent claim 10 recites "a non-volatile memory being readable and writable to and storing data including variable data", "wherein the data is subdivided into groups based on use of the data", and "the data in each of the groups being readable and writable to independently of the data in the other ones of the groups".

Hobbs fails to disclose a memory with separate groups of data that are independently readable and writable to.

Hobbs discloses an inertial rate sensor having a pickup signal, which is processed to produce a rate output signal (see paragraph 0021). Compensation signals are applied to a summer 21 from sample and hold circuits 23 (see paragraph 0022). Digital logic 24 operates in conjunction with and external EEPROM 26. Signals from the digital logic are applied to the summer 21 through the sample and hold circuits (see paragraph 0023).

The Examiner cites col. 11, paragraph 79 and col. 12, paragraph 82 of Hobbs as teaching that the data in each of the groups being readable and writable to independently of the data in the other ones of the groups. Applicants submit that the cited sections of Hobbs have been misinterpreted.

Col. 11, paragraph 79 of Hobbs simply refers to programming the EEPROM 26 at a factory. Nothing is taught or suggested regarding the data being subdivided into groups based on use of the

data, ... and "the data in each of the groups being readable and writable to independently of the data in the other ones of the groups", as recited in Applicants' independent claim 10.

Col 12, paragraph 82 of Hobbs teaches that the EEPROM 26 is accessible only with special programming codes for factory calibration. Nothing is taught or suggested regarding the data being subdivided into groups based on use of the data, ... and "the data in each of the groups being readable and writable to independently of the data in the other ones of the groups", as recited in Applicants' independent claim 10.

In the device disclosed by Hobbs, a scale factor reference voltage is determined from a digital coefficient stored in EEPROM 26 (see paragraph 0032). However, again there is nothing taught or suggested in Hobbs that the EEPROM 26 has a separate groups of data that are independently readable and writable to.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Hobbs, whether taken alone or in combination with knowledge of those skilled in the art, does not teach or suggest the subject matter recited in Applicants' independent claim 10. Specifically, Hobbs does not teach or suggest a rotation rate sensor including a plurality of circuits including "a non-volatile memory being readable and writable to and storing data including variable data", ..."wherein the data is subdivided into groups based on use of the data", ... and "the data in each of the groups being readable and writable to independently of the data in the other ones of the groups".

Claims 11-17, which depend directly or indirectly from the independent claim 10, incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 10 and are therefore deemed to be patentably distinct over Hobbs for at least those reasons discussed above for independent claim 10.

<u>New claim 17</u>

Dependent claim 17 has been newly added and recites that parameter sets of data that relate to a specific application of the rotation rate sensor are writable to after a production process by a user. Support for newly added claim 17 can be found on page 2, lines 11-17 of the English translation of the published specification.

<div align="center"><u>Conclusion</u></div>

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By   <u>/Alfred W. Froebrich/</u>
     Alfred W. Froebrich
     Reg. No. 38,887
     551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
     New York, New York 10176
     (212) 687-2770

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